

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SCCT-01 IO-10 /076 W

----- 046577

R 271300Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4276

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0925

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SF, RH

SUBJECT: KILLING OF SA POLICEMEN IN RHODESIA

1. KILLING OF FOUR SA POLICEMEN BY GUERRILLAS IN RHODESIA
DEC 24 HAS EVOKED FAIRLY MILD REACTION HERE. ACCORDING TO
UNOFFICIAL PRESS REPORTS, FOUR POLICEMEN WERE KILLED IN
AMBUSH WHILE DISCUSSING CEASEFIRE WITH GUERRILLA GROUP.
SHOOTING TOOK PLACE IN AREA WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY
CONTACTS BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND GUERRILLAS SINCE CEASEFIRE
ANNOUNCEMENT. ENGLISH AND AFRIKAANS PAPERS IN CAPE TOWN POINT
OUT THAT IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER KILLINGS DELIBERATE BREACH OF
CEASEFIRE OR "WILD ACTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL TERRORIST."

2. OFFICIAL REACTION THUS FAR LIMITED TO EXPRESSIONS OF
SYMPATHY FOR FAMILIES OF THOSE KILLED. NATIONAL PARTY
MOUTHPIECE IN CAPE, DIE BURGER, COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT
INCIDENT INDICATES BLACK RHODESIAN POLITICIANS NOT COMPLETELY
IN CONTROL OF "REVOLUTIONARY WAR." PAPER FURTHER EDITORIAL-
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IZED THAT SUCH INCIDENTS COULD CAUSE NEGOTIATION PROCESS TO

FAIL.

3. COMMENT: WHILE KILLING OF SA POLICEMEN COULD DISTURB
PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS, RESTRAINED REACTION HERE SEEMS TO
INDICATE THAT IT WILL BE TREATED AS ISOLATED, UNFORTUNATE
INCIDENT. NEVERTHELESS, SOME EXPRESSION OF REGRET BY
PRESIDENT KAUDA, OR BY MUZOREWA OR OTHER BLACK RHODESIAN
LEADER, COULD ASSUAGE BITTERNESS ARISING FROM SHOOTING
INCIDENT AND IN THAT REGARD MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD
ACHIEVEMENT OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.
HURD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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